

than deserving of this special recognition from her friends and colleagues. I rise today to share with my colleagues some background information regarding this outstanding individual.

In 1990, Claire Freeman assumed the post of chief executive officer of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority [CMHA]. In this post, she manages a \$100 million operating budget, a \$318 million construction modernization budget and a work force of 1,500 employees. Under Ms. Freeman's leadership, CMHA has received recognition as having the greatest rate of positive change after being operationally and financially troubled for over 15 years. Her efforts signal a strong commitment to the community and its residents. Claire Freeman has also taken a special interest in the youth of our community. She is meeting an important challenge of guaranteeing safe, drug-free housing for our children and their families. Further, she is a role model and mentor to youth throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, prior to coming to Cleveland, Claire Freeman served as Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Before joining HUD, she was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civilian Personnel Policy for the Department of Defense. At the Defense Department, Ms. Freeman was recognized for instituting an executive leadership program which continues to be a premier succession planning vehicle at the agency. Claire Freeman is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a master science degree in urban and regional planning. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology/history from the University of California at Riverside.

Claire Freeman is also an active member of the community. She holds memberships on many local boards and commissions, including the Housing Authority Insurance Co., Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, and the Department of Defense Quality of Life Task Force. She is also the recipient of professional and civic awards which include the Ernest J. Bohn Outstanding Public Administrator Award; U.S. Small Business State/Local Business Advocate Award; and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award in Housing.

Mr. Speaker, I take special pride in saluting Claire Freeman on the occasion of her selection as the 1996 Black Professional of the Year. As a past recipient of this distinguished award, I am aware of the commitment and dedication which this honor signals. Claire Freeman has been a tireless champion and leader for the Greater Cleveland community. We applaud her commitment, and wish her much continued success. I also extend my best wishes to the entire membership of the Black Professionals Association.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR  
JOSEPH VERNER REED

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 1996*

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give special recognition to the remarks of the Honorable Joseph Reed, Under Secretary General of the United Nations, presented on behalf of Dr. Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary Gen-

eral of the United Nations, at the Second World Parliamentarians' Conference in Gifu, Japan, in September.

I am sure we all agree that the United Nations' admirable goal of striving to promote and support democratization throughout the world deserves our wholehearted support.

Ambassador Reed's contributions to the work of the United Nations continue to serve as an inspiration. Ambassador Reed has held several senior-level positions in the United Nations, in addition to serving as the Chief of Protocol from 1989 to 1991 and United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco from 1981 to 1985.

I submit Ambassador Reed's speech in Japan for my colleagues to review.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOSEPH VERNER REED AT THE SECOND WORLD PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONFERENCE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel privileged to be here today on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who sends best wishes and greetings. The Secretary-General and all of us at the United Nations are grateful for the valuable support you have given us, in good times and in bad times. The Secretary-General has asked me to share the following with you.

When the first Parliamentarians' Conference for the support of the United Nations was held in January 1992 in Tokyo, the United Nations was entering a new phase. Gone were the bipolar tensions of the cold war. In their place came renewed commitment to the United Nations—to the great common goal of a peaceful and cooperative international system.

It soon became clear, however, that more than renewed commitment would be required. A massive transformation would be needed to enable the organization to fulfill the goals of the charter in a dramatically different world environment.

Some three years later, the process of transition continues. Significant and substantial progress has been made. But there is a need for further, substantial reform. The fiftieth anniversary year of the organization offers us an opportunity to complete this process, and bring this period of transition to a successful close.

It is in this context that you have gathered here in the Gifu for the Second World Parliamentarians' Conference for the Support of the United Nations.

You have discussed and reached new consensus on the role of the United Nations in many key areas: disarmament and peace; sustainable development and the environment; the United Nations and Asia and the Pacific; and the involvement of citizens and non-governmental organizations.

Today, the Secretary-General has asked me to take these moments with you to discuss another area of United Nations work: promoting and supporting democratization.

The end of the cold war confrontation and the emergence of globalization continue to drive a wave of democratization. Since 1989 the United Nations has received requests for electoral assistance from more than sixty member states. These requests, from nearly one-third of the organization's membership, testify to this new impulse toward democratization.

The United Nations today is in the forefront of promoting and supporting democratization around the world. The emphasis is on democratization as a process, and democracy as an objective.

Individual societies decide if and when to begin the process of democratization—to

move toward a more participatory system of political governance. And throughout democratization, each society decides the nature of the process and its pace.

Like the process of democratization itself, democracy can take many shapes and forms. It can be assimilated by any culture.

The benefits brought by democracy make it a compelling objective for those societies on the path of democratization.

Democracy supports stability within societies by mediating between competing points of view. It fosters respect between states, reducing the chances of war. It creates responsive government that respects human rights and legal obligations. And it favours the creativity and cooperation that permit social and economic progress.

The United Nations is adapting to the new and increasing demands of member states for support in democratization.

On 7 December 1994, in its Resolution 49/30, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to study ways and mechanisms in which the United Nations system could support the efforts of governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies. The Secretary-General was asked to submit a comprehensive report thereon to the assembly at its fiftieth session.

The Secretary General is now preparing the report. Outlines for a comprehensive approach are emerging. Such an approach will enable the United Nations to offer support for democratization that begins at the earliest possible stage. It could then continue on through assistance in democratic elections, and in the building of institutions which support democratization.

For democratization to take root within a society, it must have indigenous support. The United Nations assists member states in building such support by helping to promote a culture of democracy. This can mean assistance to political parties and movements; support for a free and independent media; or assistance in civic education.

Such efforts, combined with electoral assistance, can help member states firmly on the road to democratization. In this regard, recent United Nations achievements in Cambodia, El Salvador and Mozambique deserve wider recognition and attention.

Electoral assistance to member states is a new phenomenon. The Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs now serves as focal point for electoral assistance requests, with the help of the newly-created electoral assistance division.

Beyond holding free and fair elections is the evident need for societies to prepare the institutional ground in which democratization can take root. The United Nations offers a wide variety of assistance in this area, drawing substantially upon its work in development and human rights. The United Nations today is helping member states to create democratic structures of Government—or to strengthen existing ones. It is helping to enhance the rule of law. To improve accountability and transparency. To build national capacity. And to reform the civil service.

This comprehensive approach, now taking shape, reflects the changing nature of requests by member states for support in democratization. It also underscores the need for other actors to contribute. Regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, citizens, the private sector, the academic community, parliamentarians such as yourselves—all have an essential and complementary role to play.

Many of you in this audience, through such organizations as the Interparliamentary Union, or Parliamentarians for Global Action, already provide international support for democratization processes. You help promote a culture of democracy and human

rights. You provide electoral assistance. You facilitate the creation and operation of representative institutions. You are valued partners of the United Nations in the effort to promote and support democratization.

We are convinced that the efforts of states to democratize will find greater stability and an increased likelihood of success when democratization extends to the international arena.

Globalization confronts governments everywhere with new pressures. Some are economic, political and military pressures from above. Others are pressures exerted from below by local, ethnic or grass-roots organizations.

These pressures are often mutually reinforcing. Citizens suffering the local effects of problems transnational in scope—such as drug trafficking or environmental degradation—are demanding solutions from their national governments. To meet these demands, governments must increasingly seek solutions through cooperative arrangements or participation in international organizations.

The new pressures on governments are thus paving the way for an unprecedented democratization of international relations. This process must be recognized, supported and advanced. The institutions and norms of democracy, at the international level, can provide governments with the means to manage global pressures. They can help governments to provide an enabling environment for their citizens.

For the United Nations, democratization of the international system has become a new priority. Already, the reform of the organization, including the decentralization of decision-making, has taken place.

This reform needs to be met by reform in the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations. And, in the relationships between those organs and the other elements of the U.N. system. Progress in this area has been slow. But these are difficult and complicated issues. The Secretary-General is determined that they should receive their full share of debate.

There are many other ways in which the United Nations can promote the democratization of the international system. By supporting a free, independent and responsible media, worldwide, the United Nations helps to preserve the principal venue for dialogue and debate within and among nations.

International law is a powerful tool for the democratization of the international system. It promotes mutual respect among nations and peoples. It provides an analytical framework for approaching problems of mutual concern. It offers a powerful basis for multilateral action. The United Nations provides a forum and mechanism for the advancement of international law.

Global conferences, convened by the United Nations, create relevant constituencies. They bring together all the state and non-state actors concerned. This not only contributes to the legitimacy and effectiveness of the programmes of action produced. It strengthens participation in decision-making on world affairs. It reinforces democratic principles at the international level.

The efforts of the United Nations to improve cooperation with actors outside the United Nations system have a similar effect. I refer here again to regional organizations, non-governmental agencies, citizens, the private sector, the academic community and parliamentarians. In all areas of work—for peace, development or democratization—cooperation with these actors increases efficiency and effectiveness. And, it strengthens democratic principles and practices.

During this time of transition, improving cooperation with parliamentarians has taken on an even greater urgency.

Making the transition to a new international era is no simple task. The new challenges are complex, difficult, and at times, dangerous. Around the world, United Nations personnel are asked to confront unprecedented situations—all too often without sufficient resources or mandates.

The United Nations needs its member states and their peoples to recognize the complexity of today's challenges. In the task of communication, you, as parliamentarians, can play an indispensable role. You are an essential link between the United Nations and international public opinion. You are uniquely placed to help build recognition, understanding and support for the United Nations and its work.

Communication must flow both ways. If the new international system is to be legitimate, responsive and effective, all must take part in its creation. As direct representatives of the wills and aspirations of your constituents, you can carry their voices to the international arena. You can help ensure their participation.

As such, you, parliamentarians, are also a motive force for the democratization of the international system. And you can bring to bear on world affairs your commitment to dialogue, discussion and agreement—to democratic principles and cooperation.

Today, at the conference, you are fulfilling all of these important roles. You are helping to build support for the United Nations. You are bringing the views of your constituents to the international arena. You are giving strength to democratic principles in the practice of world affairs.

On behalf of the United Nations, the Secretary-General has asked me to express our deep appreciation to the foundation for the support of the United Nations, to the Gifu City government, and to the Gifu Prefecture.

Government for sponsoring this important event. This sponsorship testifies to the longstanding commitment of the people of Japan—as individual citizens, through their local and national governments, and through regional organizations—to support the United Nations and its ideals, and to participate in its work.

To all of you parliamentarians, assembled in this great and beautiful city of Gifu, the Secretary-General extends his sincere appreciation for your efforts. And we look forward to your continued participation as we strive to construct a workable international system for today, and for tomorrow.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, allow me a few words on an event which is close to my heart and, I am sure, close to your heart: the golden jubilee of our world organization.

As we prepare for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, let us recall the opening words of the charter: "We the peoples of the United Nations . . .". We all of us—are the United Nations. The United Nations is now and increasingly will be, what we choose to make of it.

Knowledge about the United Nations is thus ever more important for people everywhere. With the active commitment of people, the United Nations and continue to play its indispensable role for peace and security, social and economic progress, and global human development.

Let us take up the challenge of the next fifty years. It is in our power to use the United Nations as a force for fundamental transformation to a world of peace and enduring prosperity. Let this be the starting point for taking your United Nations on the road to the future.

I thank you for your attention.

## ENGLISH AS OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 1996*

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to bring to the attention of this distinguished body an editorial which recently appeared in the *Southeast Missourian*, a daily newspaper located in my congressional district. The editorial, entitled "Official Language for Missouri," praises the recent efforts in the Missouri legislature to establish a policy of conducting the State's business in English. The paper's discerning commentary notes that the supposed beneficiaries of multilingual government are not at all served by programs that operate in as many as 11 different languages across the State. In my view, Congress would be wise to listen to this kind of counsel, as well as to the enormous interest among folks on the State and local levels who understand the important role of English as our common language.

Legislation which I have introduced, H.R. 123, the Language of Government Act, affords Congress the opportunity to eliminate the high social and economic costs of multilingual government, and I believe it time to respond to the public's broad support of this initiative. One hundred ninety-three Members of this Chamber have cosponsored H.R. 123, and momentum continues to build.

I commend to your attention the full text of the editorial.

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE FOR MISSOURI

The issue of making English the official language has returned to the Missouri General Assembly this year. Bills have been introduced in both houses to mandate the use of English only in all state documents. Currently, some state documents are printed in as many as 11 languages.

The state effort mirrors attempts in Congress to make English the official government language. Such laws in no way intend to force anyone to speak or use English exclusively. Millions of Americans with non-English-speaking backgrounds wouldn't be impeded in their choices of how they communicate privately. What the bills would do is limit government to English rather than the potential 327 languages recognized in the United States by the Census Bureau.

Arguments that driver's license applicants, voters, welfare recipients and others who benefit from government programs are best served by catering to diverse languages don't hold up. As has been the case throughout American history, immigrants generally choose on their own to learn to speak and write English. And polls indicate more than 85 percent of Americans support the English-only concept for government.

The push to adopt English as the official language of Missouri government won't be easy. Residents who support this idea could help advance the cause by contacting their legislators and other elected officials.